

Dwindling of the market share of MTNL and BSNL

133. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a private telecom company that is hardly 3-4 years old, proudly claims as the youngest, largest and widest telecom company in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Public telecom majors, MTNL and BSNL, to the above advertisement of the private company;

(d) whether it is a fact that market share of MTNL and BSNL, is constantly dwindling in the face of aggressive campaign and innovative schemes launched by private telecom firms on the strength of latest technology and instruments/ equipments; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government to regain the lost grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Reliance Infocom is running this campaign.

(c) and (d) The claims made by the private operator is not correct. MTNL and BSNL have their own status and role as reputed Telecom Companies in their respective service areas. The market share of MTNL in cellular mobile in its service area increased from 5.94% (as on 31.03.2004) to 17.75% (as on 30.09.2006) while telephone connection of all type has increased from 59,22,592 (as on 31.03.2006 to 61,31,944 (as on 30.09.2006). BSNL has 23.31% of the total all-India market share with over 20 million connections in mobile services. BSNL has planned to add another six million mobile connections. In land line services, BSNL has 84.25% market share with around 35 million connections and it is the largest telecom operator with all-India coverage.

(e) In the face of tough competition, BSNL and MTNL have taken the following measures:

- * Aggressive marketing of its products.

- * Expansion of GSM mobile network.
- * Adding latest technologies like 3-G, IPTV and broadband NGN (New Generation Network) etc.
- * Commissioning of convergent billing solution, billing dispute and customer care.
- * Providing value added services for its subscribers in line with the emerging trends.
- * Revision of tariff to suit all segments of the society from time to time.

Telecom Services in North Eastern India

134. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to prohibition imposed by the Home Ministry on radio signals for mobile phones within ten kilometers of international border with Bangladesh, no Indian cellular service providers including BSNL are able to operate in several towns in the North Eastern India;

(b) if so, the details of the prohibition and the towns affected by it indicating estimated volume of potential mobile phone subscriber in each;

(c) whether Government are aware that cellular service within the Indian territory covered by prohibitory order are provided by operators from bangladesh; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per cellular Mobile Service License, provision of mobile service within 10 Km. of the international border and as per Unified Access Service license, setting up of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) within 10 Km. of the international border requires clearance from the Government.

Permission has been granted for provision of mobile service in the towns of Agartala and Karimganj only along the Indo-Bangladesh border.